

Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists June 2013

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Next Meeting
4 June 2013
Tuesday 8pm
Annual Meeting
Remember Subs are due
 Programme suggestions from everyone for next year. PLEASE

May Meeting Report

Our speaker was Lloyd Esler who has a weekly column of historical facts in the Southland Times. He showed some excellent slides on native and linen flax and the production of fibre. There were only three mills operating in 1972 when the industry closed down. They were Johnston Bros at Redan, Neiderers at Gorge Road, and Templetons at Riverton. It was very labour intensive and extremely hard work..

Because there an abundance of flax growing on the land, there were over 100 flax mills in Southland province in 1920's. Templetons is the only mill left in NZ where the stripping and scutching process is demonstrated by arrangement to tours or groups. The flax was cut with a sickle knife and men were paid by weight of the bundles. After the flax was stripped, washed, dried, bleached, and scutched, the



Fibre spread out to dry and bleach

fibre was sent by rail to Donaghys Twine Rope works in South Dunedin where it was used to make rope for ships and tying planes down in WW2, binder twine for hay bales and wool packs. The harvesting of the Linen flax was completely different. Buses of adults and children went out to literally 'pull' the flower stem, then it was soaked to obtain the linen fibre. The linen was used for parachutes during WW2.

Elder John Coles from the Gore LDS (Mormon) church told us they now have two computers installed. To make a booking please phone LDS Church. Elder Coles has volunteered at Salt Lake City so he is familiar with the new Faamilysearch.org which will be to our advantage.



Clearances of headstones.

205 plots at the City of London Cemetery in Manor Park, one of the largest cemeteries in the England, are to be recycled. There are many graves within the Cemetery that have either never been used since they were purchased, or in other cases have not been used for 75 years or more.

This occurs in cemeteries all over the UK, as they become crowded.

Imagine how frustrating it would be looking for a headstone in the top photo- and it is most unlikely they were transcribed before being stacked.



Coats of Arms

The ScotlandsPeople website provides access to digital images from the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland from 1672 until 1907. **Wilson** is in the top ten most common names in the U.S.A. and in **Scotland. Google your surname – you may be surprised**

Hint Your cordless mouse AND keyboard have batteries which will need to be replaced eventually or you will discover the letters on the screen freeze.

USA Social Security Death Index



This index was established during the Great Depression in 1935 with part of its remit to deal with old age pension for Americans aged 65 and over. The staff searched the 1880 census to verify ages. It was a

massive task and indexing of the census led to the Soundex system. The index includes the person name, nine digit social security number and sometimes the state where it was issued, the person's date of birth, the month and year of death, town, county, state where his/her last Social Security benefit was paid. Today Social Security beneficiaries deaths are reported and their details are added to the Social Security Death Index. Due to the frenzy by US Authorities about identity theft, this may lead to this death index being shut down.

www.ancestry.com or <http://familysearch.org>

Montana Memory Project

Newspapers, photograph collections, state & County histories and access to digital collections from local libraries and archives. All searchable for free. Late 19th Century Montana attracted large number of British and especially Iris Immigrants <http://mtmemory.org>

Royal Navy Pension Claims



The National Archives holds records of claims for unpaid wages or pensions of deceased officers of the Royal Navy & Royal Marines and their widows.

They also include claims for pensions of civilian employees of the Royal Navy & Naval Dockyards for the period of 1830-1860. Important information about both the pensioner, and the person who made the application is included. It generally lists the officers rank, occupation if civilian & name and address of claimant. These records are free to search at <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk>.

Ancestry.co.uk

The national collection of telephone Directories from 1880 and end 1985.

Electoral Registers for Midlands are online for some areas as late as 1955.

www.cwgc.org – Many Armed Forces & Merchant Navy personnel & civilians who died in the first & Second World wars are indexed here with details of next of kin

Latheron former Poor House Caithness

The Latheron Combination was formed in around 1853 and comprised the parishes of Latheron and Wick, which in 1881 had a



combined population of 19,497.

In around 1925, the Latheron poorhouse became the Latheron Town and County Home.

During Elizabethan times, the poor were seen merely as morally degenerate, and were expected to perform forced labour in workhouses or poorhouses.

In the United Kingdom (including Ireland) the beginning of the modern state pension was the Old Age Pensions, that provided 5 shillings (£0.25) a week for those over 70 whose annual means do not exceed £31.50. *Horrors!*

Do you have an ancestor listed on a death certificate with an as dying in the Poorhouse or Workhouse?

Workhouse daily routine was based on segregation of men, women and children with different dormitories and yards. This ensured only the very desperate applied to enter. As there were no pensions available it was a disaster if the breadwinner became ill, injured or died. Widows with no funds were also vulnerable. Many people would rather die of starvation than enter a poorhouse. Upon admittance the person would have been examined by a medical officer who listed him/her according to sex, age & whether they could work. A compulsory bath followed, their clothes were taken away, fumigated and they were issued with standard issue garments. These were coarse, ill fitting and worn by previous inmates. Everyone was expected to work at tedious tasks. The diet consisted of oatmeal porridge for breakfast, potatoes and cold mutton & broth & rice pudding for dinner, and tea, sugar and milk for supper.

Thanks to Jimmy Miller for information on Latheron Poorhouse

www.findmypast.co.uk/content/tna/passenger-lists Search for passengers travelling from the UK to destinations outside of Europe up to 1960 in passenger lists.

<http://goo.gl/fCyXG> - Find ancestors returning from travels overseas in UK incoming passenger lists on Ancestry.co.uk up to 1960.

UK family history records

- Most complete England, Wales & Scotland census
 - Most complete online index of birth, marriage and death records
 - Parish baptisms, marriage and burials dating from 1538
 - Travel & migration records including 24 million passenger list records
 - Military, armed forces & conflict records from WWI, WWII & more
- Much more including millions of pages of historical British Newspapers

Family history news

24/04/13 First World War Swansea Pals records
The Swansea Pals records from Glammorgan Family History Society can now be searched on findmypast.uk.
19/04/13 New records added to the World Collection.
We've added hundreds of millions of records right across the English speaking world

11/04/13 Almost 600,00 more Kent parish records added to the site. We've just added almost 600,00 new Kent baptism, banns, marriages and burials spanning 1538 to 2006.
Thanks to Blenheim Branch



Our Genetic Inheritance Your Appearance

How far back can you trace your red hair, or has your family a trend for going prematurely grey. Whether it is straight or curly is also decided by genes, as is your hairline.

Your Health

When looking at medical conditions that run in families, always remember that any person's genetic makeup is determined by the DNA from BOTH parents. Certain diseases are known to be caused by a single gene and they have been extensively researched. Cystic fibrosis can only happen when a person receives the appropriate cystic gene from each parent, who are themselves usually not affected by the disease.

Most cancers are not believed to be genetically related, although I this has not been proved conclusively, and it can appear to run in families. Early detection is absolutely essential.

Tracing Your Irish Family History On Line



Thankfully the North and South have grasped the importance of providing online access to some of their holdings.

TOP WEBSITES

Ancestry the biggest stumbling block was the lack of online indexes to records of birth, marriage and death. Two years ago <https://familysearch.org> manage to address this collection from 1845 – 1958 (to 1921 for North Ireland). It is free, but the best place to access the collections is www.ancestry.co.uk/cs/uk/ireland because you can also get the spouses of marrying partners. On Ancestry watch for Lord Morpeth's Testimonial Roll from 1841, with 250,000 signatories marking the departure of George Howard.

FindmyPast Ireland

Another major site with Irish holdings is www.findmypast.ie. This is a co venture between Scottish based brightsolid Ld Dublin based Eneclann. It offers all sorts of records online including Griffith's Valuation, petty sessions records, prison registers, landed estates records and extensive range of street directories. Recently the four Findmypast platforms have all added worldwide subscriptions to allow access to the collections from Britain, Ireland, USA and Australia.

Irish Genealogy

Many other sites have records online but the best available is www.irishgenealogy.ie with over three million church records available prior to 1900.... And it is FREE. The areas covered are Carlow (Anglican), Cork and Ross (Catholic but excludes Cork City) Dublin city (Anglican, Catholic & some Presbyterian) and Kerry (Anglican and Catholic. This site has stalled, but one of the partners, the Representative Church Body Library is still uploading Anglican records transcriptions in the interim.
<http://ireland.anglican.org/about/151>

Proni

The public Record Office of Northern Ireland has put a massive effort in the last five years with probates 1858-1943, but other databases include the Ulster Covenant of 1912- **Giants Causeway** Freeholders records and a Name-Search database. A redesigned 10th-century Street is due out 2013.



Watch for the new collection of the annual revision books that followed Griffith's Valuation of Ireland. It should help researchers plot all the changes of ownership right up to 2930 for properties in Northern Ireland 5 years on its website www.proni.gov.uk

Ordnance Survey

Northern Irish Ordnance survey maps are freely available online at

<https://maps.osni.gov.uk/mapsconsolehistoricalmaps.aspx>
These look a little rough and ready but you are able to see several different historical maps of Ulster from these time periods 1820-1951 & 1951 to the latest. There is a separate Ordnance Survey for the Republic of Ireland www.osi.ie
This is excellent for locating townlands in the south, and is still being used today.

The National Archives of Ireland

www.nationalarchives.ie It has a new catalogue with a dedicated online portal for genealogists at www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie This now holds the digitised census records from 1901 and 1911, Tithe Applotment books for 1823 – 1837 & Soldiers Wills from 1914 -1 917. Digitised probate calendars from 1858 – 1922, surviving census from 1821- 1851, Valuation Office House & Field Books 1848- 1860, Census search Forms for the 1941 & 1851 censuses (used for Pension applications).

Military Archives

www.militaryarchives.ie created by Republics Department of Defence- maps, plans, service Pension for soldiers, including IRA, & medal lists.

Clare County Library

Brilliant Genealogy & Family History section at www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/genealogy/genealog.htm - freely available genealogical resources

Irish Genealogy Toolkit

www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/irish-pension-records.html

Burials

Irish Graveyards Surveyors www.irishgraveyards.ie for burials in north & South including Donegal, Mayo & Galway. www.discovereverafter.com for County Londonderry, working on Armagh, Leitrim, Louth & Tyrone
www.belfastcity.gov.uk/burialrecords for Belfast city
The records for these cemeteries (Dundonald, Roselawn & City) are free.

Check www.igp-web.com/igparchives for headstones across Ireland, particularly good for Dublin city - free

Websites

www.historygeek.co.nz

A website of old postcards, photos and interesting stories of New Zealand history.
Thanks to Stratford Branch



<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/help/index.aspx?r=551&999> occupations found in the Census

<http://www.oddquine.co.uk/gravestones/> - Caithness Scotland

<http://www.johnstoncollection.net/> - or
The **Johnston Collection** is a historic collection of photos held in trust by The **Wick Society**. (<http://www.wickheritage.org/>). The images date between 1860 and 1975

<http://muse.aucklandmuseum.com/databases/cenotaph/locations.aspx>

<http://www.nzwargraves.org.nz/> NZ Servicemen and Servicewomen killed in the wars

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-person/prisoners.htm> The National Archives (TNA) in England has a finding guide, "Looking for records of a prisoner":

GENES REUNITED PUBLISHES OVER 25 MILLION SCOTTISH CENSUS RECORDS

Genes Reunited has published 60 years of Scottish census records ranging from 1841-1901. The newly added census collection allows people to uncover household transcriptions from 1841 to 1901 where they can see who's living in the household, their sex, age, birth year, occupation and where they were born.

Thanks to Stratford Branch

www.rootsireland.com Around 50,000 gravestone inscriptions from nearly 270 Tyrone & Fermanagh cemeteries covering all denominations

www.destinationsaustralia.gov.au – National Archives Australia want post war migrant stories. It has over 20,000 photos & hopes migrants & families will share stories of their own migration.

It was not compulsory to register Maori Birth death and marriages before 1914
